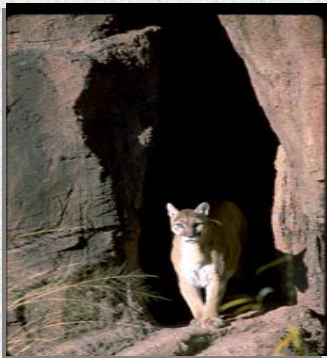




Colorado River Management Plan Natural Resources - Wildlife

High levels of human visitation along the Colorado River cause varying degrees of resource degradation. In fragile desert and riparian environments such as those in the Colorado River corridor and side canyons, just a few passes by humans can cause long-term impacts to native vegetation, soil resources, hydrological processes and wildlife habitat.



Bighorn habituated to river traffic



Monument Spring - hiker destination

DEC 5 2000



One Challenge for the Colorado River Management Plan will be to provide a quality river recreation program without degradation of natural resources.



Fragile cryptobiotic soil crust



Social trailing at Nankoweap Canyon



Ongoing Concerns

- Direct wildlife disturbance
- Social trailing resulting in degradation of wildlife habitat
- Degradation of water quality and aquatic habitat
- Trampling of riparian and wetland areas
- Introduction and spread of exotic plant species



Threatened and endangered species in and near the river corridor include:

- Over 80 peregrine falcon territories
- Up to 25 condors, frequently observed at river level
- Over 30 newly discovered Mexican spotted owl territories
- Approximately 2000 humpback chub in the main stem of the Colorado

